

## **Human Services Committee Hearing**

**Tuesday, February 23, 2010**

### **Psychiatric Medication Preferred Drug List**

For the record, my name is Thomas Cushman, I reside in Simsbury and I am a human being that experiences Bi-Polar Disorder. Hello Senator Doyle, Representative Walker and other esteemed members of the Human Services Committee. I am here in hopes that my testimony will help you recognize the importance of coverage for all psychiatric medication. A medication that works for one person may not work for another. A medication could be left from the list that could be the best medication for someone. Let me tell you about Haldol. Haldol was one of the first medications I was on. It made me feel more depressed than I already was and it caused me to black out. My wife, then fiancé, was coming up from Manhattan to visit me on the weekends. I was living with my parents at the time and one Sunday morning I woke up to see that Jill was not there. I asked my parents where she was and they told me that it was Monday and that I had done the usual of us taking her to the New Haven train station. I walked with her to the train and I do not remember this at all. As I was becoming more suicidal on this medication, one of my group counselors told me to tell my psychiatrist. Upon doing so, he changed my prescription to Risperdal. I asked him if I should let the Haldol titrate out of my system and he said no. I threw up the whole weekend and could only attribute it to the med. change. He is a good psychiatrist and listened to my concerns more so after that. When I told another person living with mental illness that I had switched from Haldol to Risperdal, he said that Haldol worked great for him and Risperdal scared him. Risperdal is not the current medication I take which, for me is even better than Risperdal. These are powerful medications that can have serious side affects. I have no side affects from the Psychiatric Medication I currently take and I wish that for any one under psychiatric treatment Please allow coverage for all Psychiatric Medications approved by the FDA. Please, do no harm. I am honored to speak here and am happy to answer any questions you may have.